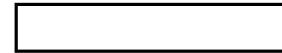


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DIRECTORATE OF  
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21 August 1968

State Dept. review completed

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[ USSR-Czechoslovakia: (Information as of 2330 EDT)

At about 2300 hours, local time Prague, (1800 hours EDT) yesterday Soviet, Polish, East German, Hungarian and Bulgarian troops began moving into Czechoslovakia, according to a Prague radiobroadcast.

Prague radio stated that the troops were moving into Czechoslovakia without the sanction of Czechoslovak party and government leaders. It appealed to all citizens to maintain calm and to offer no resistance to the troops moving into the country. According to the broadcast no commands had been issued to Czechoslovak military forces to defend the country. In Prague, the National Assembly (parliament) and the party central committee immediately assembled. They apparently are still in session.

There is as yet no indication of the size of the ground forces moving into Czechoslovakia. It is likely that deployment occurred from assembly positions on Czechoslovakia's borders in East Germany, Poland, the USSR, and Hungary.

A member of the Soviet delegation to the UN has stated that the Soviet Government and its Warsaw Pact allies were intervening militarily in Czechoslovakia at the request of the Czechoslovak Government. Otherwise, there has been no official Soviet statement, either on the intervention or on the pretext on which the action is based.

According to a press report from London, telephone contact between Britain and the Soviet Union was cut soon after Prague radio's announcement of the intervention.

The Soviet intervention came hard on the report of the convening of an extraordinary session of the Soviet Central Committee. Soviet leaders ]

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[redacted] suggests that the Soviet leadership was seeking the last-minute approval of the Central Committee for a decision which had already been made. The circumstances raise the possibility that the decision resulted from a rebellion within the politburo against policies which, in recent weeks, have appeared to put the USSR on the short end in the Soviet-Czechoslovak conflict. [redacted]

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USSR: The Soviet regime, for all its concern about indiscipline among its intellectuals, is evidently dealing cautiously with some of the better known cases of free thinking.

Soviet physicist Andrey Sakharov, whose essay proposing Soviet-US cooperation in solving mankind's problems was published in the New York Times last month, reportedly was recently ordered by politburo member Mikhail Suslov to disavow his memorandum. Sakharov refused and, according to this report, no further action has been taken against him.

A Western scientist who recently visited Dubna, the nuclear studies center, has reported that Sakharov's essay had been read by everyone there.

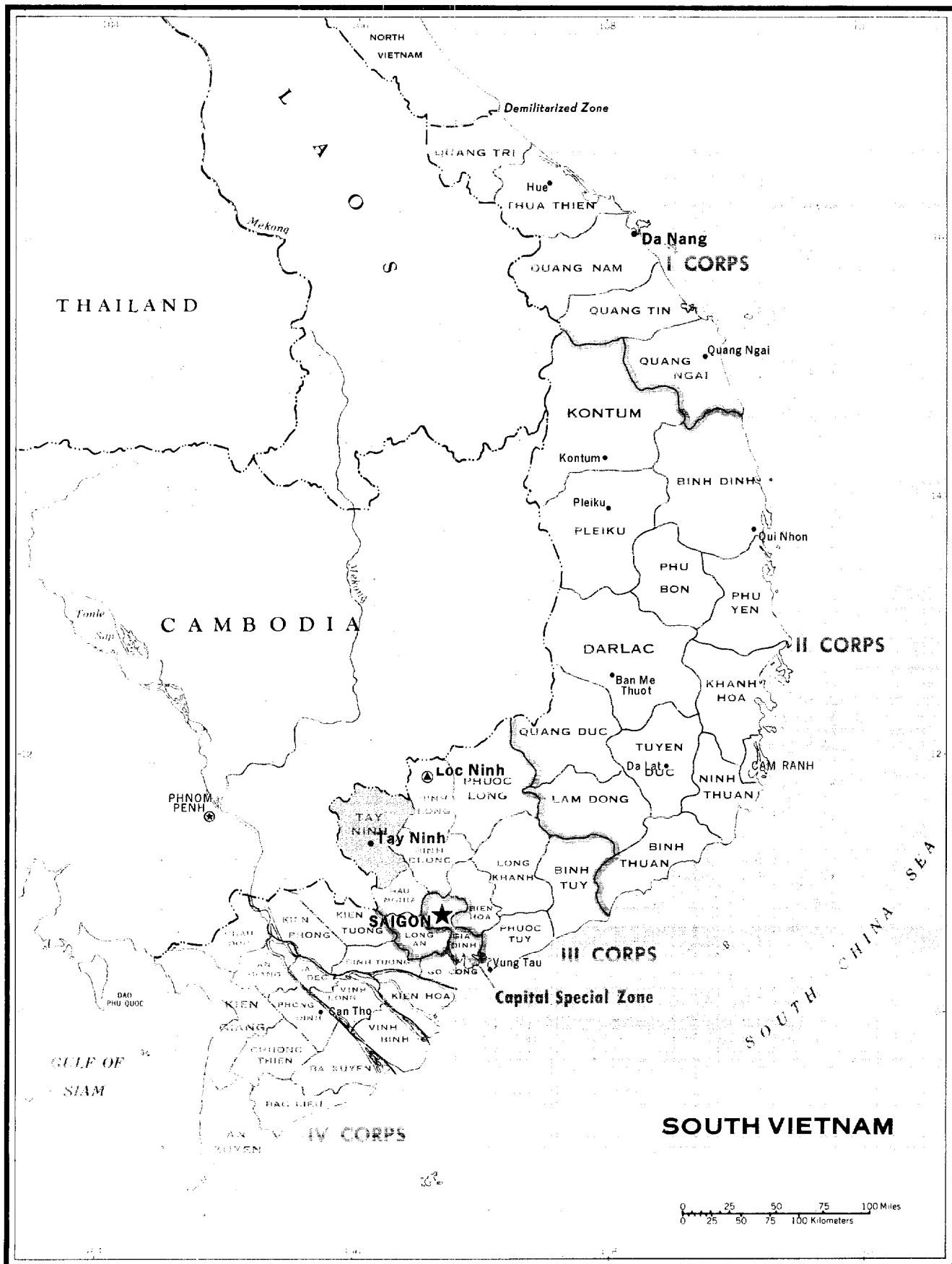
The regime seems to be dealing gingerly with other notable protestors such as Pavel Litvinov, physicist and grandson of a former Soviet foreign minister. Litvinov was a leader of the protests against the trial and imprisonment earlier this year of the intellectual dissidents, Ginzburg and Galanskov. Petitions against the trial were signed by a number of prominent scientists, as well as by Litvinov. [redacted] though they have no hard information on the whereabouts of these people, believe that they are still at large.

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[redacted]  
Leningrad intellectuals were arrested recently for signing a petition supporting the Czechoslovak reform program. Five are still detained and have been charged with "anti-Soviet activity." Soviet intellectuals report that it is now as difficult to travel to Yugoslavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia as to the US. [redacted]

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[ Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Some sharp fighting continued in northern III Corps on 19-20 August, and new clashes erupted elsewhere in South Vietnam.

In Tay Ninh Province, an estimated enemy regiment attacked two US Army mechanized companies east of the provincial capital, destroying five armored personnel carriers and killing nine US troops at a cost of 67 Communist dead. Three Special Forces camps in the area were hit by enemy mortar fire during the night of 19-20 August, and enemy troops were reportedly digging in near the Loc Ninh Special Forces camp.

In the Saigon area, US troops killed 81 Viet Cong in a day-long battle 17 miles south of the capital.

The heaviest allied losses in a single action since the beginning of the latest series of attacks occurred south of Da Nang. A strong Communist force overran a combined US Marine - South Vietnamese outpost early on 20 August, killing all 34 defenders. In a series of actions in the same area, US troops killed nearly 100 Communists.

\* \* \* \*

North Vietnam: Vietnamese Communist propaganda so far has treated the Tay Ninh attacks in low key. There has not yet been any apparent effort to publicize the attacks as the "third phase" of the general offensive. On the contrary, an authoritative commentary in the Hanoi party daily and Hanoi radio have both characterized the latest coordinated attacks merely as part of the fighting which has been going on ever since Tet. [ (Map) ]

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Congo (Brazzaville): The power struggle which began last month is not yet over.

Recently installed army commander Ngouabi, a northerner who for the present has emerged as Brazzaville's new strongman, has given most key positions on the country's new 12-man top political directorate to extremists. Ngouabi, who presides over the directorate, has announced that it is to exercise all political and governmental power until Brazzaville's institutions can be overhauled and new elections held.

The directorate has claimed a veto power over any action of President Massamba-Debat, a relative moderate, as well as control over the cabinet. The latter now is composed mainly of technicians and pro-Massamba figures.

Although the President presently appears eclipsed by Ngouabi and the extremists, he has survived numerous intrigues during the past five years, largely because he is adept at the art of tribal politics. He is reported to be assessing his strength within the divided armed forces and may yet recoup his position through the backing of moderate army elements and southern tribal groups.

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Indonesia: Foreign Minister Malik believes Asian defense must ultimately rest on national programs of countersubversion, supplemented by a series of subregional organizations.

In a wide-ranging discussion with Ambassador Green and visiting US officials, Malik reflected the general Indonesian ambition to develop a predominant position in Southeast Asia.

Malik expects that one of the subregional groupings will be dominated by Japan and will include Taiwan and Korea. A second, in Southeast Asia, will be led by Indonesia and will include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and perhaps eventually Cambodia. Australia and New Zealand, he believes, will be linked to Asian countries through bilateral ties with Indonesia and possibly with other Southeast Asian states.

The Indonesian foreign minister said that he did not object to a US presence in the Indian Ocean area, particularly if it were not associated with a permanent and large military force, and in fact, that he hoped US power would remain available "over the horizon" in case of an emergency. Nevertheless, Malik and other leaders in Djakarta, both military and civilian, see Indonesia as benefiting from an eventual US withdrawal, not only from Vietnam but from all of Southeast Asia.

Malik commented that US bases in the Philippines were a matter between the Philippines and the US. He added that there would be time to make "other arrangements" during the 25 years remaining of the US-Philippines base agreement. [redacted]

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer has eased relations with the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party by saying that he will permit the party's radio program--suspended since early July--to return to the air. Leaders of the party's moderate wing have indicated they will try to tone down the inflammatory content of some of the broadcasts. Balaguer's conciliatory attitude appears to have contributed to the party's decision to call a halt to plans by its radical members to create disorders during the inauguration on 16 August of the new mayor of Santo Domingo. The outgoing mayor, a member of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, was replaced by a supporter of President Balaguer.

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\* \* \* \*

Brazil: Students are considering street demonstrations in Rio de Janeiro again if their demands for the release of radical student leader Vladimir Palmeira continue to be ignored. Palmeira has been in custody since 3 August. Although his detention has provided a convenient issue for radical students, it has also deprived them of their most effective leader. His absence and the presence of state and military police units in downtown Rio have prevented major demonstrations since early August, and most students probably will hesitate to engage in new protests until security forces are less in evidence.

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Ecuador: A potential appointee to President-elect Velasco's cabinet has proposed that Ecuador seek to buy pipe from Eastern Europe and sell it to Texaco-Gulf for construction of a trans-Andean pipeline. This pipeline would transport crude oil from newly discovered petroleum deposits in eastern Ecuador to an outlet on the Pacific coast. The proposed transaction would enable Ecuador to liquidate a major part of credit balances totaling \$6.7 million with Poland, East Germany, and Hungary and receive dollars from the sale of the pipe to Texaco-Gulf.

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